vices appropriate to the occasion were participated in, for the most part, by large congregations at the in, for the most part, by large congregations at the various places of worship, all of which were tastefully decorated with the customary emblems. In the more thickly settled portions of the county the destitute were not forgotten, as in numerous bistances private benevolence had joined hands with public charity in supplying creature comforts to the poor and distressed. Neither were the prisoners overlooked. In the County Jail, at White Plains, an excellent repast, consisting of roast chicken and other palatable dishes, was furnished to the inmates by Sheriff Carpenter. The 1,600 male and female convicts in the State prisons at Sing Sing were also made happy by an abundance of cheese, poundcake and pure coffee, provided by Warden Walker, who, in addition, allowed the jailbirds to enjoy themselves in their ceils as best they might until "locking up" time at nine o'clock in the evening.

## THE DAY ON STATEN ISLAND.

There were the usual Christmas services in the thurches throughout Staten Island yesterday. The inmates of the public institutions were supplied with roast turkey dinners. Mr. Thomas McCormack, Superintendent of the County Poorhouse, took special care of the 125 inmates of that institution, and made them comfortable for the day. The inmates of the Child's comfortable for the day. The inmates of the Child's Nursery, at the Four Corners, were also made happy, a bountiful Christmas dinner being supplied to them. This was also the case with the inmates of the Semon's Retreat, at Stapleton, who were looked after by Dr. Henry King, and those of the Sailors' Snug Harbor, at New Brighton, where over 400 persons were bountifully entertained. The Stapleton Quartet Club had their annual Christmas sociable in the evening.

## CHRISTMAS IN HOBOKEN.

"Noch ein glas bier" was a frequent remark heard yesterday among the lager-loving Teutons in the various lager beer establishments of Hoboken. The sons of Germania quaffed their natural beverage as true disciples of Gambrinus and wished good health to themselves and the human family at large.

The employes of the Hoboken Land Company made rapid work about noon with the 300 turkeys given them by order of Mr. Shippen, President of the said com-

by order of Mr. Shippen, President of the said company.

The German steamship Pommerania was given ever to festivity from the forecastle to the steerage, and all hands made merry with American turkeys and German cordials of the Kirschwasser type. The canny Scots on board the State line steamship City of Virginia, which arrived in the morning, although they had no haggis, were joyful, and celebrated the glad day with all the enthusiasm of the sons of Caledonia. The hotels and lager beer establishments were crowded. The Hackensack and other ferry boats were decorated with evergreens, and the ferry houses had a holiday aspect. At the police station, Captain Donowan tempered justice with mercy, and discharged from custody all those who were not too outrageously drunk, and able to find their way home, including a number of residents of this city, who were provided with a police escort to the ferry boats. Divine service was held in all the churches, and the glery of the day to all Christian hearts was descanted on by the miniato all Christian hearts was descanted on by the mini-ters of all Christian creeds.

## A CHRISTMAS TRAGEDY.

A MAN MORTALLY SHOT IN A CROWD-AND NO ONE (?) SEES THE MURDER.

Shortly after two o'clock yesterday morning a man named Caspar Ross, of No. 29 avenue C, rushed into the Seventeenth precinct station house and informed the sergeant at the desk that a man had been shot in Second street, and was then being conveyed to that station house, and asked to have a surgeon ready to treat the wounded man. A few minutes later August Zernow, aged twenty-seven years, of No. 192 Second street, was brought in bleeding from the abdomen and in an unconscious state. He was cared for in the station house, but about twenty minutes after his arrival

Captain McCulloch at once instituted a search for evidence in the case, and by daylight had arrested the following named persons, who were the last who had

following named persons, who were the last who had been in the dead man's company:—Caspar Ross, William Johann, of No. 192 Second street; John Oakley, of the same address; Jacob Ross, of No. 190 Second street; H. C. Smith and J. T. Gorman, of No. 190 Second street; H. C. Smith and J. T. Gorman, of No. 173 Second street; J. Lahr, of No. 160 Second street, and N. B. Man, of No. 174 Second street.

Coroner Woltman was summoned to take charge of the case early in the forencon, and on arriving at the station house had a conference with Captain McCalloch and his detectives in reference to the evidence they had obtained and the parties they had arrested. The prisoners were all brought from the cells to the Captain's reom, and subjected to a severe questioning by both the Coroner and his deputy, Dr. Cushman. It soon became evident that Lahr and Gorman knew nothing of the shooting save what they had learned from conversation with others of the party. They admit having heard the discharge of the weapon; but they were in a neighboring saloon at the time, and the report came from the street. From the statements of the other persons it appears that the entire party now under arrest had been ON A SPREE ALL NIGHT.

the other persons it appears that the entire party now under arrest had been

ON A SPREE ALL NIGHT,
and had visited several saloons, wherein they had drank teely. The last saloon they visited was that kept by Henry C. Smith, at No. 173 Second street. There they remained some time, a dispute finally arising between Zernow and Caspar Ross in regard to some pigeons which the former claimed to have bought from Smith. Ross said the birds were his, and in an endeavor to support his title to them became exceedingly demonstrative and violent in his language. At last the party, with the exceptions of Lair, Gorman and Smith, went into the street, where Zernow, Ross and Johann renewed the quarrel. In about two or three minutes after the men had left the saloon the report of a pistol was heard. Four shots were freed, but as yet the authorities are in ignorance as to who did the shooting. The statements of all the parties concerned vary maternally. All say they heard the shots, but deny having seen a pistol. One or two saw the flash, but yet they persist in saying that they have no idea who held the fatal weapon or weapons.

In view of the fact that Lahr and Gorman were in the

that they have no idea who held the fatal weapon or weapons.

In view of the fact that Lahr and Gorman were in the saloon at the time of the shooting, the Coroner discharged them from custody. Smith, however, who also remained inside, but who, the Coroner believes, knows more of the shooting than he cares to tell, was sent, together with Oakley and Jacob Ross, to the House of Detention, there to be held as witnesses. Caspar Ross and Johann were sent to the Tombs as principals, Coroner Woltman and Captain McCulloch both being of the opinion that either one of them fired the fatal shots. Coroner Woltman empanelled a jury and had it view the body of the murdered man as it lay on a stretcher in the station house, after which the jurors were discharged until the inquest is held.

Captain McCullagh stated to the Heralle reporter that the entire party connected with this sad affair were known to be bad and dangerous characters. It is doubtful, however, that this is iterally true, for, on inquiry in other quarters, it was ascertained that Caspar Ross carries on a respectable business in Eleventh street, near the East River. No pistols or arms of any description were found on any of the persons arrested, but as from one to two hours had elapsed between the shooting and the arrest of the accused it will readily be seen that they had ample opportunity to dispose of anything of this kind.

# PAT TAYLOR'S CHRISTMAS LUCK.

During a quarrel, yesterday afternoon, between Patrick J. Taylor, of No. 87 Franklin street, and John Duffy, in a liquor store at the corner of Pearl and Frankfort streets, Taylor was stabbed in the nead several limes. His wounds are severe, but not dangerous, Duffy escaped the vigilance of the "finest police in the world."

# THE CHRISTMAS STORM.

SNOW, HAIL, RAIN AND FOG-SERVICES IN NEW HAVEN INTERPERED WITH BY THE WEATHER.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 25, 1875.

Coming so suddenly after a three days' remarkable mildness, the storm which began last evening, and continued till this afternoon, gave prospect of resembling the great Christmas storm of December 24, 1812, than which, according to old inhabitants who remember the circumstance, nothing that can be ber the circumstance, nothing that can be cited by way of comparison has since occurred. Last night was most tempestuous. The wind howled among the trees on the "Green," and sleepers, awakened by constantly slamming shutters, rose and searched their houses, but to find the disturber was some other than old "Santa Claus" struggling down the chimney. The snow, however, changed to hail, the hail to rain, and later there came a fog which dispelled some of the snow, but not enough to establish the claim to a "green Christmas."

Great preparations in music and in evergreens had been made in the Catholic and Episcopai churches to celebrate in the evening the great annual festival of

Great preparations in music and in evergreens had been made in the Catholic and Episcopai churches to eciciorate in the evening the great annual festival of the Incarnation, but the storm caused some of them to be postponed. Among the churches noticeable for exquisite decoration were St. Mary's and St. John's, Catholic, and Trinity, St. Paul's and St. Thomas, Episcopai, in all of which were held this morning solemn high masses and special Christmas services respectively. The day, suggestive of joy and gladness, has only been so in name, the weather rendering out'of-door movements anything but agreeable

# OTHER WORLDS THAN OURS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD :-

Under this heading a correspondent comments with a degree of reason and, I think, truth; but unfortunately in one sentence he advances a theory which I dely him to prove, either individually or by the ald of most gifted philosophers-namely, that "we have daily proof that heat and electricity will produce life everywhere." If he can substantiate this he will secomplish a feat in science which will make his name of world wide colebrity and undying fame. Heat and electricity may and do propagate life, but cannot produce the minutest even imperceptible creature if it have not a germ to work upon. All creatures are nenspontaneous and originate from the egg or spawn of its species, and no variation from this law is known to man. Hence the great mystery of life and stumbling block to Darwinites. Yours respectfully, D. ROSS. daily proof that heat and electricity will produce life

## SING SING PRISON.

How the Prisoners Fare and What They Are Doing.

A World of Woe and a Hive of Industry.

Sectarianism in the Penitentiary-The Female Prison,

Whoever visits the picturesque village of Sing Sing for the first time cannot but be struck by the om looking tron-barred building there, erected at a considerable cost to the State, on the left bank of the Hudson, close to the water's edge. It is the Penitentiary, where bad men, and women, too, who have allowed their evil passions to get the better of them and broken the law, are serving their various terms of im-

Approaching the dismal edifice from Sing Sing the visitor pauses to contemplate the unrivalled beauty of the river, mountain and woodland scenery spread out at his feet on either hand or away in the distance. From the contemplation of this charming nook in the Budson's beautiful valley the beholder is rudely aroused by the scream of the steam whistle or the ring of the convict quarryman's pick as he forces it into the rude rock, apparently working for no other object than to give him something to do. Tho points of vantage ground and elevated spots on the eastern side and in the immediate neighborhood of the prison are occupied by sentry boxes and little guard towers, which are tenanted by vigilant guards whose duty it is to watch the convicts at their laber, singly or in gangs, about the grounds. The river front is also well watched by armed keepers. On the east, about 200 yards from the prison, the guard house is placed; and on a still higher ground behind it stands the temale department of the prison.

Descending a step or two into the office and reception rooms the visitor enters the apartment at his left hand, and sees fronting him a daily bulletin, from which it might be learned that on the 16th day of December, 1875, there were 1,439 male and 141 female convicts in this State establishment. The visitor is now conducted down a low and poorly lighted passage until at the distance of fifteen or twenty paces he comes opposite the south end of the east side gallery, with its long vista of

TIERS OF CELLS extending to the right. Close to the left hand, hung against the wall, is a detail board, which shows the particular occupation in which each convict is employed on that day. The prisoners are designated by their names and not after the more degrading custom of calling them by numbers, as is done in Europe.

The east side gallery is divided by an iron partition running across the middle of the corridor. There are six tiers of cells, one above the other. The gallery contains altogether 100 cells; that is, fifty on each sid of the partition. On the southern section of the gallery the cell doors are locked singly with a key, and on the northern section all the doors are locked at once by a running bar baving an arm that falls down and secures an iron latch outside the several cell doors. The bar, which runs in evelets along the wall, is worked by a lever and ratchet, and is secured in its resting place by a strong key lock. No light falls into of the cells excepting what is reflected from the corridor; and the narrow barred windows, let into the high wall which shuts the prison from the outer world, admit but little of supshine or gladness to illuminate the interior. The other galleries are similarly constructed and lighted. The passages and cells were very clean, steam heated and comfortable, but redolent with that disagreeable, half-fetid odor, which is always present in badly ventilated apartments that have been ong overcrowded with inmates.

Cell No. 685 was tastefully painted in squares and other geometrical figures, traced along the walls in a brown paint, but whence the coloring matter was taken, or who the particular convict who adorned his cell with it, the keeper could not say. The interior of the cells were very clean, but the straw mattresses which were extended over the iron stretchers looked dingy enough. A number of pictures, some books and a few little harmless articles ornamented the walls of the cells, and were apparently displayed to the best advantage by their occupants. The interior space of the cells is about ten feet long and five feet wide. THE PRISON FOOD.

Leaving the cell galleries the writer followed his guide to the yard, in the direction of the refectory. Marching in the same direction a line of convicts, in their gray striped prison clothes, was observed. They followed each other in single file, in close order, and, behind the leading man, each had his hands resting on either shoulder of the one who preceded him. This precaution of keeping the prisoners' hands in sight was one of discipline, and intended to prevent the possi-bility of sudden resistance to the officer in charge. precaution of keeping the prisoners' hands in sight was one of discipline, and intended to prevent the possibility of sudden resistance to the officer in charge. The moss room is a very large, square apartment, furnished with parallel rows of tables, of which there are seventy-six calculated to geat fifteen men at each, and three tables for twelve persons each, making table room for 1,176 prisoners altogether. It was some time past noon when the writer entered, and the greater part of the convicts having fluished their midday meal had gone to work, but there remained some eighty or a hundred men seated at the south end of the dining hall; these were cating a repast at which many an industrious, hardworking laborer or mechanic would have been glad to regale himself. Breakfast is served at seven o'clock, excepting Sundays, when it is ready at eight. The morning's meal consists of meat hash or stew, with polatoes, coffee and bread, and of these wholesome articles of feed the prisoner is allowed all that he can consume. This treatment contrasts very favorably with that of European penttentiaries, especially those of Great Britain, where a miserable pittance of diet, hardly sufficient to keep soul and body together, is doled out with a parsimony that is anything but creditable to the government. The convicts sit down to dinner at noon, and at this meal are allowed a plentiful supply of meas, potatoes, cabage (or beams) one day in the week. The working hours are from a quarter before eight o'clock in the merning until a quarter before eight o'clock in the merning until a quarter before eight o'clock in the merning until a quarter before theiry under the following heads:—Quarrying, fine burning, shoe making, iron moulding and general foundry work, blacksmithing, harness making, tarness iron and buckle making, furniture and cabinetmaking, laundry work on a large scale and a tin and general jobbing shop.

The MALE CHAPEL is on the second floor, over the dining hall. In going from the leater to the former one could not f

is on the second floor, over the is on the second floor, over the dining hall. In going from the latter to the former one could not fail to notice the unpleasant odor of musty cabbase and corned beef; of half-damp, musty bread, and a dank, unventilated atmosphere. Under these circumstances it could not be expected that the air in the chapel should be of the purest. The chapel is a gloomy, sombre looking, great square apartment, insed with wooden benches. It has an extremely plain pulpit and a few reserved seats for visitors. At the far end a knot of some half-dozen convicts was seen around the little puane-organ, which faced the pulpit.

"What are they doing here?" inquired the writer of his goide.

which taced the public with a re-key doing here?" inquired the writer of his guide.

"They are preparing for a musical entertainment, which it is intended will be given on New Year's Day." Approaching the group the instruments were found to consist of a pisso-organ, a base viol, violit, triangle, and two or three singers were also in attendance. A good natured looking prisoner, who was minus the left frin, busied himself in procuring seats for the visitors. The musicians spent a good deal of time in getting their instruments to the proper pitch, and even then seemed reluctant to begin the music; they seemed no way desirous of pleasing their audience of two persons. At last they struck up what, outside the prison, might, perhaps, have been a lively negro air, but it met the car with a sad, long drawt out, drige-like sound, in which a minor seventh frequently vibrated with solemn sadness.

EKCTARIANIER IN THE PRISON.

which a minor seventh frequently vibrated with solemn sadness.

• Mr. Canfield is chaplain of the prison. Mr. Canfield is a Presbyterian minister; he has his study in the library and is officially charged with the care of souls. Although the number of Presbyterians is very small within the prison walls, the great majority who are non-believers in the tenets of this denomination are obliged to receive their spiritual comfort through what might seem to them a disagreeable because as uncongenial channel. A Roman Catholic priest, Father Hassan, visits the prison, and sometimes, it was stated, says mass there; but his services are entirely gratuitous, while those of his Presbyterian fellow clergyman are paid out of the State funds. Here is the case of a clergyman whose co-religionists bear an infinitesimal proportion to the bells of his flock, and where the vast majority of his hearers do not believe in the creed which he professes. But Mr. Canfield says that

who are supposed to be the best judges in these as well as other matters concerning the prisoners' welfare, named him to the office, and that therefore, although a Prestyterian divine, be is chaplain, not for a portion of the prisoners, but for the whole of them—let them take or leave that arrangement as they please. Why, said a gentleman who is our authority in these matters:—

"A union of Church and State would be infinitely preferable to an anamolous condition of affairs like this. It would be much better for the rest of the prisoners

who are not Presbyterians to receive a dergyman named by the State Legislature or the general govern-ment, than by an irresponsible committee of prison directors, like that which has named Mr. Canfield to office, to the exclusion of clergymen of all other de-nominations."

where the furniture, in sets or separate pieces, is put into conveniently shaped packages for transportation to New York and other markets.

FIRE LAUNERY.

Perhaps the most complete laundry in the United States—one of the best, indeed, to be found anywhere—is that at Sing Sing Prison. It employs in the separate operations of washing, drying, starching and ironing no less than 214 men. A forty-five horse power engine on the first floor furnishes the power which moves the machines for washing, wringing and seaming the clothes. The steam washer consists of a ten foot drum wheel, with four compartments, having side openings into them. These comartments are charged with a given number of dozens of pieces each, and by the circular motion of the drum round it axis the pieces are, as it were, chursed clean. The clothes are passed through a steam wringer and go to the third floor, whore they are pisced in closed, steam-heated compartments, where they are dried to a crisp, at a temperature which sometimes reaches 165 degrees of Fahrenheit. From the drying room the "starching pieces" go down again to the first floor, where they are starching pieces go down again to the first floor, where they are starching pieces you down again to the first floor, where they are starching machine, which gives a more equal distribution of the stiffenting matter than could be applied by hand. The garments are now sent to the ironing tables, or which there are dozens on both the first sand second floors. The furnaces erected in each room for heating the vans are complete specimens of Yankee inventiveness, and the constantly dropping shower of thuds of the iron on the ironing boards sounds oxidy strange to the ear which hears it for the first time. Each convict can iron from nine to twelve, and sometimes sixteen dozen shiris a day. This mammoth laundry, which "takes in washing" from New York and the neighboring towns about Sing Sing, turns out frequently 300 dozen of pieces in a single day.

single day.

THE BLACKSMITH'S SHOP.

At the back of the laundry in a long building which runs parallel to it and to the cabinet factory, is the blacksmith's shop. Here there are twenty-four forges in full blast, employing thirty men to attend them. All sorts of iron work is done here, and the potent blows of the steam hammer almost shake the edifice to its foundation.

oundation.

From the blacksmith's shop to the foundry is but a step, and in the latter place may be seen all the implements, accessories, moulding frames, furnaces, &c., necessary to do every kind of job in iron or brass founding.

is adjoining the blacksmith. Thirty men are engaged in the various details of buckle making and the construction of all kinds of harness irons. Back from the buckle factory is a mechine shop, fitted up with iron planing, drilling, punching and cutting lathes, machines and engines. In this shop all the repairs to machinery belonging to the State are done. The machinery belonging to the State are done. The machinery is driven by steam power. Thirty-two men are at work in the machine shop, and thirty-nine in the buffing room. Twenty-live men were engaged in the packing room of the buckle and saddlery manufacturing departments. Messrs. Samay, Thompkins & Co. are contractors for the convict labor necessary to run the blacksmith's, buckle, machine and manufacturing shops generally. It is claimed that they have a capital of nearly \$100,000 embarked in the business. One of the partners, Mr. Hydin, claims to be for more than forty years engaged in the business of contracting for convict labor. The present contract occupies 160 men in all the departments of their saddlery and hardware manufacturing business. The convicts work from six to seven hours daily, and the State receives a remuneration for them at rates varying from forty to fifty cents per man. Little is now being done in the shee shop, as the contractor recently died and no new agreement has yet been entered into with any other firm.

Besides the branches of labor above mentioned a THE "BUCKLE SHOP"

firm.

Besides the branches of labor above mentioned a large number of prisoners are engaged in lime burning and the manufacture of marble dust, used in the hard finish plastering of houses. A new lime kin has re-cently been erected, which turns out 500 barrels of lime per day.

In the library are some 5,000 volumes of miscellane-

In the library are some 5,000 volumes of miscellaneous books, but the most of them must have been out among the convicts, as the writer saw long rows of empty shelves, with here and there

A STACK OF RING JAMES' BIBLES,
and a few hymn books scattered along them. The convicts are not allowed to receive newspapers, although it was significantly intimated that now and then the men managed to get hold of a copy of the Herald.

THE PERALE PRISON.

This portion of the Penitentiary was visited, and the wretched inmates seen at the several branches of making and mending a variety of clothes and household linen. This part of the prison is scrupulously clean, every part of the place almos with cheerful brightness—if this could be said of a prison—when compared with the men's department. Some of the women's cells were decorated prolucely and tastefully with pictures, paper flowers and pieces of curiously contrived needlework. The atmosphere was pure and the cells perfectly dry.

was pure and the cells perfectly dry.

Upon the whole, the men confined at Sing Sing do not possess that villanous, downcast, hang-dog look that people are apt to attribute to convicts. They seem nd, look to belong to a much lower class of creatures in the men. In either case the prison uniform, with its ungainly coarseness, detracts much from the cerful and comfortable appearance of both men and

Stokes, the slayer of Colonel James Fisk, Jr., is em-ployed as cierk in the office of the hespital, and is re-ported to be new in a comfortable condition both of body and mind.

# DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

RUMORS REGARDING THE COMMISSIONERSHIP. The City Hall has been prolific of all sorts of rumors during the past few days. At one time a political upheaval was expected in the departments by the joint ac tion of Mayor Wickham and Governor Tilden in the matter of the removal of Police and Fire Commissioners. Since charges have been preferred against those gentlemen the politicians on busily engaged in the circulation of those rumors. The HERALD reporter yesterday came across one of those gentlemen in the vestibule of the new Court House who was possessed of a great secret, which he unfolded with an emphatic caution not to "give away" the author. This secret consists in the reported arrangement entered into between Mayor Wickham, Comptroller Green and several prominent

Wickham, Comptroller Green and several prominent republicans to send in the name of Mr. E. P. Barker to the Board of Aidermen for confirmation in place of General Fitz John Porter as Commissioner of Public Works. If this statement is true, peculiar deductions may be drawn from so singular an appointment by a democratic Mayor, Mr. Barker being a republican.

This gentieman was formerly deputy under Commissioner Van Vort and has had considerable experience in the Department of Public Works. It is stated that he was connected with Comptroller Green's office when that gentieman was one of the Central Park Commissioners. The Committee on Bumors have also lately been busy with the story that the entente cordidate is thoroughly restored between Mayor Wickham and Comptroller Green. A little outside byplay, however, is kept up to give the semblance of continued quarreling between these two functionaries. Dock Commissioner Wales' late attack upon the Comptroller is given out as having been inspired by Mayor Wickham. Thus the whole matter may have been a preconcerted plan to prepare the public mind for the denouement about to come.

The Mayor's Massage.

Our energetic Committees on Rumors have also got hold of some facts relative to the Mayor's coming message. It is alleged that the document will contain a strong argument in favor of the abolition of day labor on the public works and the substitution therefor of the contract system. This is another stride toward republican, policy by Mayor Wickham. The republican minority in the Board of Aldermen have consistently stood up against the law giving out work on the day labor plan. At the last meeting of the Board, however, several of the democratic majority changed front and voted with the republicans. They may have received their lesson from Mr. Wickham.

This week must positively determine as to the Commissionership of Public Works. General Porter's term expires on the 30th inst. Mayor Wickham will not give the singlitest inkling as to the name he intends to send in for confirmation to the Board of Aldermen. THE MAYOR'S MESSAGE

# THE TROTTING TRACKS.

The trotting tracks in the vicinity of the city yesterday were in such bad condition in consequence of the rain of the night before that all the races announced to take place on them had to be postponed.

# TROTTING IN CALIFORNIA.

OARLAND TROTTING PARK, Dec. 17, 1875 .- Purse \$200, OARLAND RECTING FARE, 1966, 1, 1970, 

## PIGEON SHOOTING.

EVENTS DECIDED ON THE GROUNDS OF THE LONG ISLAND CLUB.

The members of the Long Island Shooting Club celebrated Christmas Day at their grounds near Jamaica in the good old-fashioned style. It was intended to shoot for the "Cup," a prize hung up each month for competition, but the number present being less than the conditions called for, this event was portponed until Wednesday next. Full of the desire for a little fun, however, no time was lost in arranging sweepstakes, several of which took place during the afternoon. The weather was of the most disagreeable character, and the grounds wet and muddy, rendering the sport far less enjoyable than is usual when these gentlemen meet for practice. Of the usual when these gentlemen meet for practice. Of the events worthy of notice there were four, the first being an open sweepstake of \$3 entrance, three birds, twenty-five yards rise. H and T traps and club rules to govern. This had five competitors, Messrs. Thomas, Wingert and Baylia. Killing all their birds in style and then snooting off the tie, Baylis missed his first, but Thomas cut down three and Wingert two, when upon the suggestion that the money should be divided, as the latter was going to the score, this pian was adopted. The second sweepstake was of the same number of birds as the above; \$2 entrance, and like conditions as before named. Nine gentlemen came to the work, and Messrs. Thomas, Madison and Hemming each cutting down all their pigeons, they, to save time, divided the \$18.

down all their pigeons, they, to save time, unruck tack \$18.

The third sweep was similar to the second in every respect, and had the same number of competitors. Messra. Thomas, Hartshorne, Madison and Elmendorf divided the money.

The fourth event had twelve entries, the conditions being alike to the above. Mr. Render won first money, and there being nine that kniled two each, they shot off for the second prize. The first round each brought down his bird, but in the second six allowed their pigeons to escape, and the three that killed divided the balance of the premium. The birds as a lot were excellent.

GROUNDS OF THE LONG ISLAND SHOOTING CLUE, NEAR JAMAICA, L. L. DECKMERR 25, 1875.—Sweepstake of three birds each; \$8 entrance, 25 yards rise, H and T traps, and club rules to govern; \$10 to the first and \$5 to the second.

## SHOOTING DAYS APPOINTED.

There will be pigeon shooting at the Long Island Club Grounds, as above, on Tuesday and Wednesday next. Open sweepstakes will be decided on the first day next. Open sweepstakes will be decided on the first day, and many of the best shots in the vicinity are expected to be present. The second day the "cup" of the club will be offered for competition, in which the members alone take part, but then there will be a classified sweepstake at 30 yards rise, to take part in which the officers have extended invitations to all recognized gun clubs in this vicinity. Favorable responses have already been received from the Harlem and Nassau Shooting clubs, and the prospects are that the occasion will be one of much interest and pleasure.

## HANDBALL.

The members who visited McQuade's court yesterof extraordinary sport, were not disappointed, many leading players being in attendance. Early in the day the gallery began to fill. The match between Messrs. Killeen and Harney against Messrs Regan and Barry excited great interest. The play of Mr. Harney was very effective, and although Mr. Barry played with his usual power and served low, swift balls, Mr. Harney and partner won the match, scoring two games to their opponents' one. The following is the score, 15 being 

Regalli
Barry 0 0 0 0 3 0- 3-10
EECOND GAME.
Killeen 0 0 1 8-4
Harney 8 3 5-11-15
Regan 5 0 2- 7
Barry 0 3 2- 6-12
THIRD GAME.
Killeen 0 1 0- 1
Harney 1 2 2 3-8-9
Regan 0 0 0 5- 5
Barry 3 0 6 1-10-15
Messrs. McGovern and Barry then played a match
against Messrs. Johnston and Lenihan, the games being
very close and the scores as follows:-
FIRST GAME.
McGovern 2 1 3 0 0- 6
Barry 2 2 2 3 9-15
Johnston 1 0 0 1- 2
Lethan 0 3 4 2- 9
SECOND GAME.
20.71.10

McGovern 2 6 1 1-10
Barry 1 0 0 0 - 1-11
Johnston 0 6 1 3 6-10
Lenihan 2 0 0 2 1- 5-15

McGovern 1 1 0 3 5 0 0 9
Barry 1 1 0 1 1 1- 5-14
Johnston 0 0 1 1 0 0 - 2
Lenihan 1 1 0 1 1 1- 5-14
Johnston 0 0 1 1 0 0 - 2
Lenihan 2 1 1 4 1 2 2-13-16

By the time the above match was finished every seat
was occupied. The lively interest previously evinced
was increased as Messrs. McQuade and Lenihan entered
the court to contend against Messrs. A. McQuade and
Ryan. The two McQuades elicited frequent applause
by the manner in which they returned difficult balls,
the elder also sustaining his reputation for calmness
and good judgment and the younger for hard hitting.
Mr. Ryan also won enthusiastic applause by his fine
play. The following is the score:

PIRST GAME.

Ryan. 3 0 2 0 - 5

Ryan. 2 3 0 2 1— 8
A McQuade 3 0 1 3 — 7—15
Lenhan 2 1 1 1 1 0— 6
B. McQuade 1 0 0 0 0 3— 4—10

# HANDBALL IN BROOKLYN.

At the court corner of Hoyt and Doughest streets, Brooklyn, yesterday, there was a large attendance of experts and others to witness the series of games for the gold medal. A four handed match, best two in three, was played: -- Mathew Belford and Dennis Mo-Donald against Joseph Grady and James Mack-the

when both came out. Casey then took the ball and, serving low to the left, made 5 before he was put out, his partner making 2. Jessup, taking the inside, made 2, and his partner followed, making 7. Grady, now going in, ran his score up to 19, his partner making 2, and closing the game with a score of 21 to 14.

The second game with a score of 21 to 14.

The second game was commenced by Casey, who made 1 and took the outside. Jessup then went in and made the extraordinary run of 10, his partner making 3. Casey now going in, counted 5, his partner making 3. Honnessy now taking the ball, made 2, his partner making 4. Grady following made 2 and Casey 3. Jessup going in, made 2 and finished the game, the score standing—Casey and partner, 14; Jessup and partner, 21.

The last game was well contested all the way through. Jessup opened without counting. Grady made 2; his partner, going in, made 2. Hennessy took the ball and scored 5. Jessup made 4. Carey, continuing his low service, made a run of 6, his partner making 2. Jessup now counted 6, his partner following and making 5. Grady made 3 and his partner 8. Jessup theb took the ball and made 2, which ended the game and the match, the games standing—Jessup and Hennessy, 2 games to 1 for Casey and Grady. Owing to the sickness of players entered, the gold-medal match has been postponed to Saturday next, New Year's Day.

6 6 Flanigan, 14.

# - A WAIL FROM THE TOMBS.

The Story of an Unfortunate Dying of Consumption.

Alleged Cruel Conspiracy to Hound a Man to His Grave.

Cell No. 2, on the second tier of the Tombs, contains to-day two persons. One is a mere youth, confined on some trivial charge. His companion in durance is an adult, and more worthy of description, as he was, in his day, one of the best known men that ever figured in a court of justice. He is tall, above the ordinary standard of tail men; his cheeks, once full, are hollow, bringing into great prominence the high bones below the eyes. The eyes themselves, of a deep brownish hue, have entirely lost their lustre, and now present a deadened, watery, wandering appearance, and his complexion is sallow and wobegone. He wears straggling black hair on his face, which serves to display the unhealthy and corpse-like shade of the skin. When he converses he lifts his hands in a painfully listless feeble manner, to his head, as if he were suffer ing the intensest anguish from his efforts to articulate. His whole exterior is that of a wreck of humanity tottering slowly and sensibly toward the grave. This ruined man's general address is that of a gentleman and a man of education, but also that of one to whom death would come as welcome release from bodily suffering and mental The name of this prisoner is Henry C. Cole, formerly of this city, now claiming Philadelphia as the proper place for his residence. It may be remembered that this man enacted the rôle of principal witness against the

NOTORIOUS COUNTERFRITER, J. D. MINER.

when that individual was tried by a United States Court in New York during the year 1871. Miner was tives one of the boldest and most adroit counterfeiters that ever disgraced this country. Effort after effort had been made to entrap him, but all their plans were futile. At last, however, he was arrested and placed on trial, and Cole, from his knowledge of counterfeiters and, it was presumed, his dealings with them, was enabled to afford the government most valuable evidence on the witness stand. He did so, using every effort in his power to effect the conviction of Miner. He thereby brought upon himself the animosity and anger of one of the most power-ful gangs of dealers in spurious money that was ever able to defy the schemes laid for their destruction by the government officials. Cole, from a long and successful career as an expert counterfeiter, it was said, amassed a fortune exceeding \$200,000, and it is even now asserted that he controls property to the value of at least half that sum. This, however, Cole emphatically denies. He was arrested in 1871, charged with having forged and negotiated \$10,000 worth of Allentown (Pa.) district school bonds, but as the authorities failed to make out a case against him he was discharged, his bail also being relieved. Now he is in the Tombs again. A HERALD reporter, having learned of his arrest, called upon him to learn why he was again in limbo. The reporter knew him previously, and was well acquainted with the circ stances of his former arrest, incarceration and discharge; so upon presenting himself at Cole's cell door

charge; so upon presenting himself at Cole's cell door he was immediately recognized. The prisoner was exceedingly faint and scarely able to undergo the fatigue of the interview, so far has THAT AFFLICTS HIM reduced his physical strength. He spoke, however, though slowly, at times pressing his emaciated hands to his forehead. The reporter said:—
"Mr. Cole, I have heard that you consider your present imprisonment the result of a conspiracy, and have called upon you to learn anything that might prove of interest to the public."
The prisoner replied politely to the salutation, The prisoner replied politely to the salutation, brought a chair to his cell door, and, speaking in a sort

The prisoner replied politely to the salutation, brought a chair to his cell door, and, speaking in a sort of hollow whisper, gaid:—

"That I am here, sir, is because of no fault of mine. I am pursued by human hounds who will never rest till they drive me into the grave, which will be shortly. I will tell you briefly, all I know, and I will tell you strictly the truth, nothing but the truth, as God—who will soon be my judge—is above me."

The unfortunate man paused for breath, coughed, and continued:—"In 1871, as you are aware, I was arrested charged with giving to a pretended broker having a nome at the Fifty-seventh Street Court and was the Fifty-seventh Street Court and was the complainant. I was taken to the court and seated, along with my captor, in a side room. In a few minutes a man, whom I swear to you I never laid eyes on before, came to the door, looked in at us for a few minutes, and turned away. "That's Muir," said the Sergeant. "And that," said I, "is a most villanous way to have a man identified." As there was no one clse in the room besides Phillips and myself, Muir, putting up me. Well," continued the prisoner, recovering from a nit of coughing, "well, alter this little farce of identification a partial examination was had and I was heid for trial in the sum of §20,000. This amount was excessing the impossibility of my obtaining such an amount of ball, made strenuous exertions to have it reduced. He succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down some time after to succeeded in getting it down so trial in the sum of \$20,000. This amount was excel Wm. F. Kintzing was retained as my counsel, and si the impossibility of my obtaining such an amoun bail, made strenuous exertions to have it reduced, succeeded in getting it down some time after \$15,000, which was furnished, and I was then dec bail, made strenuous exertions to have it reduced. He succeeded in getting it down some time after to \$15,000, which was furnished, and I was then declared discharged. As I was leaving the court I was immediately rearrested on a civil order of arrest in an action to recover from me \$10,000, the full amount of the Allentown bond forgeries, which, I soliem mly declare to Heaven, I never in my life even saw. Messra. Scott & Dougherty, brokers in Broad street, brought the suit through a lawyer named Morgan. I was taken to Ludiow Street Jail, where I was kept a prisoner for seven or eight months. At this time my beaith was such that instead of being confined in a jail I should have been in a hospital. The bail in the civil suit was placed at \$10,000, which I eventually succeeded in getting. I was then discharged from arrest, but as I was departing from the Jail my bendsmen in the criminal charge became timid and surrendered me, and again I was thrust into the Fombs. Three weeks longer I remained. My bail was next reduced from \$20,000 to \$5,000. I signed over to my stepson a house and lot situated in East Eighty-sixth street, and got him to go on my bail bond. An indictment had been found against me and was held in the Destrict Attorney's office. I was then ready and willing to be tried, for I feit that there were parties related to have the affair sifted and get my release. About three weeks later my counsel appeared in the General Sessions and had myself and my bail discharged, District Attorney Garvin despairing of finding any proof against me, and Recorder Hackett consenting. Instead of fearing anything and flying from the city as a guilty man would have done, I resided quietly in my stepson's house on Eighty-sixth street for months, or until the June following. No one attempted to molest me. I had a farm situated about thirty miles outside of Philadelphia. I started, after June, to look after the affairs of this farm. When I reached there the party holding a mortgage on it foreclosed, as I had no money to pay th

thirty miles outside of Philadelphia. I started, after June, to look after the affairs of this farm. When I reached there the party holding a mortgage on it foreclosed, as I had no money to pay the interest, and took it from me. I then took up my residence in Philadelphia, and tried to earn an honest living for myself and family by shipping general produce. I was so engaged when, on the 1st of December, without any premonition or cause, an officer came to my house and again arrested me. I was arrested on the old charge made in New York. I was aimost as bad then in health as I am now. I was taken to the Philadelphia Central station, put into a cell where I was compelled, in my suffering condition, to remain five days and nights lying and sleeping on the hard, cold boards. My consumption had taken fast hold of me, and I nearly died there. At the end of the five days I was committed to Moyamensing Jail, where, until last Wednesday, when I was brought back here, it was kept confined. The reason they brought me back here is because I am to be persecuted more. The lawyer, Morgan, got a requisition from Governor Tildeo on the ground that I ran away from the old criminal charge, when you know I was discharged. A judgment was got against me for \$10,000 on the civil suit, and, there being no power to bring me from another State on a civil order, they had to resort to the defunct criminal matter tojert inches the state on a civil order, they had to resort to the defunct criminal matter tojert in the resort to the defunct criminal matter tojert in the resort to the defunct criminal matter tojert in the series of the series o

"Is suppose if you satisfy that judgment you will be released."
"Of course. The secret is they still think I am worth money, and they imagine that, dying, as I am, and suffering, I would give them money—no own money—sooner than remain three. I would if I had any. It is a diabolical and unnatural conspiracy. They have robbed me now of my last cent. I am a beggar, but they won't believe it."
"Who are the parties you suspect of this conspiracy?"

spiracy?"
"This man Muir, one Snediker and a man named Ed.

grave, and wish my tast breath I will protest my inno conce."
"Has ball been fixed this time?"

"nas ball been fixed this time?"
"God knows, I don't; I care not, for I feel that I have
more to contend with than I am able."
"I see by the Henath that you once escaped from
Sing Sing; is that so?"
"I intended speaking about that. I swear to you on

Sing Sing; is that so?"
"I intended speaking about that. I swear to you, on my word as a man who has but a short time to live, that I was never in Sing Sing in my life. The prison record will confirm this."
The wretched man was so weak at times during the interview that the reporter thought him hable to sink to the ficor at any moment from exhaustion. He left feeling convinced that Cole's story bore the impress of truth.

fruth.

The reporter saw Cole's counsel in the former case, Mr. Kintzing, who said.—"In my opinion, this man's arrest again, in his condition, is a terrible outrage."

A visit to the District Attorney's office disclosed the fact that there is no new indictment against Cole; that on the old one the word "discharged" appears, and that the requisition for Cole's return from Philladelphia was granted on the affidavit of Henry A. Davies, a secret service detective, who swore:—"I knew Henry C. Cole, formerly of this city, and know him to be a fugitive from justice."

TERRIBLE MATRIMONIAL TRAGEDY.

A FORBEARING HUSBAND, DRIVEN TO FRENZY BY A VIXENISH WIFE, AT LAST MURDERS HER AND HIMSELF-RESULT OF A DIFFER-ENCE IN RELIGIOUS PAITH.

KINGSTON, Dec. 25, 1875. The news has been received here of the death of Mrs. Martin Ritter, of Flatbush, who has been lying, since Friday of last week, unconscious from wounds in-flicted by her husband, who cut his own throat thereafter and died in a short time. The details of this

double domestic tragedy are as follows:—
The parties, Mr. and Mrs. Ritter, were a middle-aged couple who had long been residents of Flatbush. They were people in comfortable circumstances, and among the most respectable in the locality. Mrs. Ritter was a leading member of the Methodiet Church, and an ardent worker in the cause of her society. Her husband was attendant on and a believer in the doctrines of the Reformed Church, although not a communicant. This difference in religious belief was a constant bone of contention between the husband and wife, and led, indirectly, to the double crime of last week.

indirectly, to the double crime of last week.

REGULT OF A PRAYER MERTING.

The night previous to the murder and suicide there, was a Methodist prayer meeting at the house of reneighbor, and Mrs. Ritter, who had for some time manifested great anxiety for her husband's Soul, wanted him to attend the meeting with her. He declined, and she went away alone, highly displeased with him. Ritter spent the evening at the house of another neighbor, a member of the Reformed Church. The Methodist meeting was out, and Mrs. Ritter got home and abed before her husband returned home. When he repaired to his beforom he found that his wife had locked the door on the inside and positively refused to let him in. He found every other bedchamber in the house and every room with a fire in locked, and he was finally compelled to go into the attic. The night was bitter cold, and he got but little sleep.

THE MURDER.

Friday morning he came down and found the kitchen unlocked, but his wife not yet out of her room. She presently appeared, and at once assailed him for his persistent refusal to repent of his sins and become a follower of the Lord. Warm words followed, and at last Ritter picked up a hammer that lay near and exclaimed:—

last Ritter picked up a hammer that lay near and ex-claimed:

"We might better be dead than five this way!"

He then dealt his wife several blows on the head, and she fell screaming to the floor. Her screams were heard by Eli Epigrave, a neighbor, and he at once rushed into Ritter's apartments. He found the husband standing over the prestrate form of his wife with the hammer raised as if to strike again. Epigrave seized hold of him and threw him aside, and carried Mra. Ritter into his own part of the house. Ritter repeated the above remark as Epigrave went out with the wounded woman.

wounded woman.

THE STICIDE.

He was left alone in his room but a moment, but when Ephgrave returned he found Ritter on his knees before his bed, with his head fallen over upon it and blood streaming from his throat to the floor. Ritter was taken up and laid upon his bed, when it was seen that he had cut his throat from ear to ear with a razor. He died before a physician could be called.

Mrs. Ritter's wounds consisted of soveral fractures of the skull and bad cuts about the fine. She was conscious for a short time, giving the above details, but soon entered a comatose state from which she never recovered.

soon entered a comatose state from which she never recovered.

Ritter was a sober and industrious man, of a remarkably even and forbearing temper. His wife its said to have been a regular vixen, and was constantly scolidary and finding fault with her husband, until, goaded to frenzy, he committed the terrible deed which sent them both into eternity. Mrs. Ritter was married once before, and led her husband so unpleasant a life that, as it was currently reported at the time, he exposed himself purposely to contagious disease, which he contracted and from which he died.

entertained when the "coundations of the earth' are felt to tremble."

Surveyor Redd, of Henrico, says—"After the second shock I went out to view the appearance of the heavens. The sky was clear, not a vestige of a cloud to be seen, but I here was a dingy murkiness about the atmosphere that caused the stars to shine with a somewhat reddish light, and these near the horizon to have a faint nebulone appearance. My children are all hard sleepers, yet they were all instantly aroused by the first shock, and described their sensations by likening them to the effect produced by a powerful electric current. About an hour previous to the shocks I had walked out, and while out noticed several faint flashes of light, which appeared and disappeared so rapidly that I was unable to locate them. I had often seen flashes of this sort on former occasions, and thought nothing about it at the time. These flashes, though entirely unlike any form of lightning, were evidently of electric origin, but whether they had any connection with the earthquake that followed I do not presume to say."

with the earthquake that followed I do not presume to say."

Some old soldiers described the sound as very similar to the noise made by the passage of a heavy train of army wagons. Mr. Stephen Putney remarked yesterday that he remembered very distinctly the impression made upon his mind the morning that General Lee attacked the enemy before Richmond, the terrible rattling of the windows and the shaking of the houses, but that was not to be compared to the effect on him of the earthquake.

A very interesting incident is related by a young gentleman (and he vouches for its truth) who was one of a parity of five who were engaged in playing bluff somewhere in the neighborhood of Fourth street, Richmond. He states that one of the party had been losing very heavily; the thing had become rather monotonous and suddenly he exclaimed, "Oh, I wish an earthquake would snake the cards well." A moment more a shock did come, sure enough. His wish was gratia shock did come, sure enough. His wish was grati-fied, but the party broke up in dismay.

# TWEED AND THE SHERIFF.

No news was received at the Sheriff's office vesterday relative to the report that William M. Tweed was in Havana, Sheriff Conner was in attendance all day, in expectation that he might obtain an answer to his desputch making inquiries as to the foundation of the rumor, but no response came up to the time for closing the department. Mr. Conner is still under the impres-sion that the story is a hoar.

# WANTS TO KNOW THE BOUNDARY.

The Board of Supervisors of Suffolk county have authorized and directed Mr. J. Amherst Woodbull, the member from Huntington and Commissioner of the county for determining the boundary line between Queens and Suffolk counties, to go to Albany, with the Commissioner appointed to Queens county, and confer with the State Engineer and Surveyor regarding the settlement of the boundary line.

FATAL SLIP FROM A FERRYBOAT.

Coroner Nolan was notified yesterday morning to hold an inquest over the body of Mrs. Mary Murray. who died at her late residence, corner of Greene and Franklin avenues, Brooklyn, from the effect of injuries sustained a couple of days ago. Deceased, who was about fifty-eight years of ago, was in the act of stepping from the bow of a ferrybeat which was going into the sip at the foot of Twenty-third street, New York, when she attempted to step on the bridge, and missing her footing fell and was caught between the latter and the boat.

Jessup now counted 5, his partner following and making 5. Grady made 3 and his partner 5. Jessup then took the ball and made 2, which ended the game and the match, the games standing—Jessup and Hennessy, 2 games to 1 for Casey and Grady, Owing to the sick ness of players entered, the gold-finedal match has been postponed to Saurday next, New Year's Day.

AMERICAN RACKETS.

The match of American rackets between Messrs. Lenihan and Maher and Messrs. Ryan and Flanigan was well played, and though darkness came on before the termination of the match the interest was maintained till its conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till its conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till its conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till its conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till its conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till its conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till its conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till its conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till its conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till its conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till the conclusion, the latter scoring the first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till the conclusion of the match the stream the cow stable. He was found the score was first and the termination of the match the interest was maintained till the conclusion of the latter for the foregree. These are the forting till the conclusio